

The Bethel Courier.

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SPRING 1988

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY LAUNCHES BUSINESS/CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

During the early months of 1988, the Membership Committee chaired by Barbara D. Brown has been actively recruiting business/corporate members for the Society's rolls. Participating business/corporate members receive a membership certificate that can be displayed to their customers and will receive regular recognition as corporate sponsors in the COURIER. To date, the following businesses/corporations have become members of the Society: Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc., Bethel; Bethel Savings Bank, Bethel; Bethel Spa & Shops, Bethel; Boise Cascade, Portland; Contel of Maine, Damariscotta; Gillies Realty, Bethel; Goodwins Inc., Norway; Ralph Merrill Plumbing and Heating, Bethel; Prim's Rexall Pharmacy #2, Bethel; Ross Joly Realty, Inc., Bethel; Shearwater Design, Bethel; Sunday River Ski Resort, Bethel; Western Maine Supply, Bethel. Much appreciation is expressed to all of the above for their support.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 1988 (as of May 1, 1988)

HONORARY

Maxine Brown, Bethel; Elizabeth Carter, West Bethel; Floribel Haines, Bethel; Ralph Hall, Bethel; Persis Post, Bethel; Ranald & Sarah Stevens, Bethel; Edmond & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Edna B. York, Bethel

BENEFACTOR

Donald & Katherine Bennett, Bethel; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Karl & Helen Kraul, Portland; Margaret Tibbetts, Bethel

LIFE

Consuelo Z. Alger, Honolulu, HI; Laurel Atkinson, Norway; Charles M. Austin, Orlando, FL; John Ballentine, Somersworth, NH; Arthur E. Barker, Stafford Springs, CT; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; Alvin L. Barth, Bethel; Clarence A. Bartlett, Nashua, NH; Laurence E. Bartlett, Bethel; Otis Bartlett, Berlin, NH; William P. Bartlett, Dover-Foxcroft; Kathleen S. Bean, Bryant Pond; Tamara Billings, Bryant Pond; Jeanne T. Bletzer, Woodstock, VT; Garret & Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Florine E. Bowden, Esmond, RI; Dorothy Brinck, South Paris; Carolyn Brooks, Bethel; Dale S. Brouse, Frazier Park, CA; Donald & Arlene Brown, Bethel; Julia Brown, Bethel; Richard Bryant, Bethel; Ralph & Beatrice Burris, Bethel; Richard & Catherine Bush, Belmont, MA; Donald & Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Ann Carlson, Friendship; Lee & Judith Carroll, Gorham, NH; Theodore & Kay Chadbourne, Bethel; Philip & Mary Chadbourne, Bethel; Mary Champe, Rumford Center; Stephen & Lynda Chandler, Bethel; Alonzo F. Chapman, San Antonio, FL; Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA; Donald & Dorothy Christie,

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Looking north from the site of the present Crescent Park School, ca. 1900. The house in the center was built by Eben Kilborn in 1891 and marks the beginning of present-day Kilborn Street.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF THREE BETHEL STREETS: CRESCENT, KILBORN AND TYLER

By Geraldine S. Howe

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following history of three Bethel streets was delivered at the October 1985 monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. It has been updated and corrected for publication in this issue. The author wishes to thank all those who contributed memories, photographs and/or anecdotes.

CRESCENT STREET

Crescent Street was built after the Town of Bethel acquired the land for a new school to replace the Brick Grammar School on Elm Street which was built in 1894. The land for this school was taken by eminent domain from Edward H. Hastings on May 9, 1950 for \$3200. It had been part of the Broad Street farm of John Hastings, the village blacksmith and Gould Academy treasurer, and had long been used for pasture. Later it was leased to George Harlow for pasturing his cows. He was a local milkman who once lived where Fred and Mina McMillin do today. Many of us who grew up in Bethel will also remember going there for our annual school picnics.

Crescent Park School, a name suggested by Pearl Ashby Tibbetts, opened in 1951. Its planning and construction had been overseen by a school building committee consisting of Paul Thurston, chairman, Harold Bennett, vice-chairman, William Chapman, Leslie Davis and John Harrington. The 1951 annual report for the Town of Bethel described their role:

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Accepting the responsibility given them by the Selectmen and the Town of Bethel they built a modern eight room school which Bethel can well be proud of. Through its forty-six meetings or interviews, discussion, and decisions the committee at all times kept in mind that its duty was to build for the town as large and serviceable a building as possible with the funds at its disposal.

The funds available to the committee consisted of \$75,000 from the town, \$60,000 from Gould Academy for the old Grammar School and lot, and \$1200 from the State of Maine. Of this \$136,000, the project cost \$135,166.01, leaving a balance of \$1,033.99. In 1954 another two rooms were added to the building and several years later two more were added to the opposite end. Until the building of Telstar in the late 1960s this was the site of grades 4-8. Today the school contains grades three, four and five.

The Frances Emma Robertson house was moved to her land and additions were made to it. She lived there for several years. Sadie and Herman Robertson and family lived there for some time. They were followed by Henry and Elizabeth Robertson and family who own the house today and have made extensive renovations. The Blinn Collins family lived here in 1939-40.

Across the street is a house long owned and occupied by Ralph Merrill and family. The land was purchased from Elsie Poor by Robert Murphy, who placed a small building there. It too has undergone extensive remodeling. Murphy sold it to P.H. Chadbourne and Company. While Chadbourne owned it, there were several tenants including Carl Jordan and James and Doris Hutchins. In 1969, Ralph Merrill acquired the property from Chadbourne. He made several changes before selling to Gregory Mills, the current owner.

KILBORN STREET

Kilborn Street began with a deed from Eben S. Kilborn and Alberto Copeland which stipulated that this land would be offered for the purpose of laying out a street. The 1905 deed gave the Town of Bethel ten years to open the street and "fit the same for travel" or "the land is to revert to said grantors, their heirs and assigns." The Town of Bethel moved promptly on this offer since it was accepted at the town meeting of March 5, 1906.

For many years this street was informally known as "Tripe Alley" since William "Emulous" Littlehale who lived on Vernon

Street made the mistake of bringing the lining of a freshly slaughtered heifer's stomach home to his wife Jennie who berated him severely for delivering such a thing to her kitchen. According to Gardener Gorman, this story was widely told and explains the name since the Littlehales lived at the Vernon Street end of Kilborn Street.

The name Kilborn probably came in the 1940s after the death of Eben S. Kilborn in 1940 who built the house on Chapman Street now owned by Timothy and Marilyn Hutchins who acquired it from Evelyn Wing. Kilborn was born in Harrison in 1846. His family moved to West Bethel in 1854. As a young man he bought a half interest in the Twitchell-Cross grist mill on Mill Brook and later acquired the other half of the business. He bought the Eber Clough carding mill not far away on the road to Songo Pond and converted it to a dowel mill. In 1892 he sold his mill interests and turned to lumbering, owning large tracts of timberlands in the Bethel area. He served the town of Bethel five terms as selectman, several years as road commissioner and was elected to the state legislature in 1899. He was a trustee of Gould Academy from 1900 until his death in 1940, serving as president of the board from 1933 to 1937. He married the former Joan Stearns; they had no children.

The first house on the street was a bungalow built for Dana and Alfaretta Hall in 1910. Alfaretta Hall purchased the land from Eben and Joan Stearns Kilborn on June 23, 1910. The Halls were active in the Christian Science church. After their death, their children (William and Winifred Hall Bartlett) sold the premises to Sherman and Agnes Flu on June 19, 1935. Sherman Flu, who was retired and used the place for a summer home, was an uncle of Sherman Greenleaf.

The Flu's sold the property to Ruth Mason Brown on August 12, 1943. She was the wife of Carl Brown, the well-known publisher of the *Bethel Citizen*. The Browns lived here for twenty years, Carl dying in 1963 and his wife continuing to live there until her death in 1977. Upon Ruth Brown's death, the property passed under the provisions of her will to her son John, who resides there today. Tenants who have lived here include Leslie Poor and the Hedley Wheeler family.

Next door is the new home of Elden and Ann Greenleaf built in 1984 on land that he reserved from the parcel conveyed with the sale of the funeral home.

Across the street is the ranch style home belonging to Thelma Remington built in 1982 by George Olson. Mrs. Remington purchased the land from Barry Titcomb on November 23, 1982. One of the provisions included in this deed is that "no mobile home is to be placed on this property."

TYLER STREET

The origins of Tyler Street extend back to 1925 when a portion of the street was accepted at the March town meeting. It was extended to Vernon Street in 1944 at the annual town meeting following application from Fritz Tyler. He was paid \$1 for road damages and Charles Bryant \$150.

Celia Gorman's house was the first house on the street built in the 1920s. It was constructed by Fritz Tyler, Ed Smith and Fred Clark for Tyler. Zenas Merrill and his mother lived there first and then the Earl Eldrege family. Charles Gorman purchased the house and large lot from Fritz Tyler for \$1900 in 1931.

The man for whom the street was named was born in Albany, December 26, 1873, the son of William and Dolly Payne Tyler. In 1896 he married Grace L. Bartlett who died in 1959. They had two children, Esther and Lauris. For several years Mr. Tyler

EDITOR'S CORNER

Each issue of the *COURIER* is often an exercise in frustration. There is a wealth of material vying for inclusion for the limited space available. News of the Society competes with historical articles. Names of endowment donors and lists of members also require space as well. One of the "safety valves" always available to relieve the pressure of finding space is the addition of two more pages to the usual eight. But this cannot be used too frequently as budget considerations must always be kept in mind. It is a real dilemma. I hope readers understand the "juggling act" that each issue represents and that every effort is made to include something for everyone.

SRH

worked in the blacksmith shop of A.C. Frost and became a proficient smith and carriage worker. For several years he was employed in the shop of Jarvis C. Billings on Mechanic Street before establishing his own shop.

Changing times caused Mr. Tyler to abandon blacksmithing and iron craft work for canning corn. For several seasons he managed shops in Bethel and Fryeburg as well as for a season one at Casco. In 1927 he opened a box and novelty shop which became well-known in his later years. Tyler served as deputy sheriff and tax collector. He died March 22, 1964.

Tyler Street according to the 1957 town report was the first soil cement highway built in Oxford County. It was reconstructed that year at a cost of \$2569.04 for the 800 foot street.

In 1929 Helen Berry bought land from Ella M. Copeland and had a house built on the Chapman Street side of the Gorman house. Here Ralph and Helen Berry lived for many years until the property was sold to Robert and Annie Gordon on November 4, 1963. The Gordons sold the property in December 1975 to Kenneth Bedder and Shirley L. Russell. They operated a furniture refinishing business, and sold the premises to Lauretta Varo and Gloria Lewis, owners of The Only Place in West Bethel. They sold the property to Timothy and Janice Loughlin, the present owners. Renters here have been Basil Seguin and family, the Grants and the Vedellas.

Continuing on the same side of the street beyond Celia Gorman's house is that of Edward Wheeler built in 1954 by Frank Lowell. Edward "Stubby" Wheeler's wife Elizabeth Gorman Wheeler, daughter of Charles and Celia Gorman, died in 1983.

The next house on this side of the street is that of Debby Mundt Wheeler. She operates a dog kennel and is a former animal control constable. The land for this house was purchased from Fritz Tyler by Herbert Kittridge who built the house in 1946. He sold the property to the Wheeler family in 1977.

Across the street is the home of Gailey Wheeler. In 1971, she and her late husband Lynwood purchased the land from Herbert Kittridge, who had acquired it from Fritz Tyler. Originally it was part of the Dan Spearin farm that faces Vernon Street. The house was built by Don Chretien.

William and Louise Rice live in the house which was once the home of Fritz Tyler. It is today owned by Burnham and Wendy Rice, who acquired the premises from Edward Wheeler. Tyler purchased the land from Gladys Spearrin Holbrook in 1941. Upon the death of her father, Esther Tyler sold the property to Richard Angevine in 1964. He sold it to his parents Ernest and Alberta Angevine in 1974 and they sold it to Edward Wheeler in 1982. This house has had several tenants including Robert Record, Lisa Fox, Jeri Brooks, Brenda Smith and Town Manager Elwyn Dickey and Rene Cote. Nellie Stetson was Fritz Tyler's housekeeper here the last few years of his life.

Burnham and Wendy Rice's house was built in 1976 on land given them by her grandparents Charles and Celia Gorman.

Vernon and Maxine Brown's house was built by Ernest and Warren Blake in 1952 on land purchased by Charles and Marjorie Freeman from Euberto Brown who lived where the Cooleys do today on the corner of Chapman and Mason streets. Warren Blake lived here before the Freemans. Charles Freeman deeded the property to Marjorie Freeman as part of the divorce settlement. She sold it to Maurice and Micheline Roy in 1966. Two years later the Roys sold the property to Vernon and Maxine Brown. Since Vernon Brown's death in 1986, his widow has continued to occupy the premises.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Over the winter and spring the Society has continued to flourish. One of the reasons for this growth and enrichment is the spirit of volunteerism embodied in the committees. At present there are fifteen standing committees of the Society. These are chaired by a member who coordinates the group's particular activities. A committee consists of an average of seven to ten members, although several members serve on more than one committee.

It would take a very long column to outline all the activities of the committees and to thank all the members who have worked so hard for the Society. Instead I would like to call attention to a few of the essential jobs which are handled expertly by our volunteers. The Building Committee oversees the maintenance and use of the Dr. Moses Mason House. The Garden and Grounds Committee cares for the flowers, shrubs, and trees on the property. Developing liaisons with local schools is the job of the Education and Research Committee. The Program Committee plans the yearly calendar of events. Tours of the Dr. Moses Mason House are arranged by the Museum Committee. The financial affairs of the Society are kept in order by the Investment and Endowment committees. Refreshments and dinners are planned by the Special Projects Committee. The Genealogical Committee oversees research in the Society's fine collection of family histories. Heritage Day is a highlight of the year thanks in part to the Craft Committee. The Faye Taylor Art Show is the concern of the Art Committee. The Music Committee provides a pianist for monthly meetings and other occasions. Membership rolls are increased annually by the Membership Committee. A Distribution Committee works to send out our "Bethel Courier" and other mailings. The Long Range Planning Committee charts our course for the next several years and beyond. Several committees are responsible for some of the Society's most successful annual events including "Christmas With the Masons" and "Sudbury Canada Days."

Many thanks to all who have put time and energy into the work of the committees.

Marvin Ouwinga

NEW TRUSTEE

Sylvia B. Wight was born in Upton, Maine and attended the Upton School. She married Willard Wight of Newry in 1943 and they have two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.

A resident of Old Town for twenty years, she was an active member of the Stillwater Federated Church, serving as Superintendent of the Sunday School for several years. She moved to Newry after her husband retired from the Maine Forest Service.

In Newry, she is a member of the Community Church, Mother's Club, the Windy Valleys Snowmobile Club, and Bear River Grange.

She has been very active in the Society since joining in 1976, serving as a guide in the Dr. Moses Mason House, on the Special Projects Committee, and generous donor. She became a life member in 1987.

Her hobbies include knitting and gardening.

Besides Tyler Street's claim to being the first soil cement street in Oxford County it is also believed that the first corn for the Bethel canning factory was grown near this street.

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

(Membership, continued from page 1)

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)

\$2 each

Moses Mason House

Summer House

Bethel Railroad Station

Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢

"The Family Farm" 75¢

"Made in Bethel" 75¢

"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1

"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2

1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2

1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1

1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Wood Tote (canvas) (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$12.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$7.50

Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Special Editions

Bethel Citizen (1974) \$1

Indian Raid '81 \$1

Books

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

B.G. Willey, INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY \$25

Maxim & Lapham, HISTORY OF PARIS \$55

Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$24.95

D. B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4

Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50

Ruth Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$3.50

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5

Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE

BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW

ENGLAND Paper \$19.95. Cloth \$29.95

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF NORWAY, MAINE \$55

M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$35

Jean Lipman, RUFUS PORTER REDISCOVERED \$14.95

A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS

PORTRAITS \$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5

Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50

R. H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45

F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE

MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1988 \$6

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

Gray; Lt. Col. Norman & Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Fillmore & Shirley Clough, Bethel; Isabel T. Coburn, New Harbor; Mary Lou Cole, Norwood, MA; Howard & Virginia Cole, Bethel; Wilfred & Eleanor Conary, Bethel; Bruce & Gayle Connor, Chelmsford, MA; Rupert & Eva N. Conroy, Auburn; John W. & Inez Conzelman, Palm Springs, CA; William & Margaret Cousins, Bethel; Robert & Suzanne Crane, Bethel; Margaret Davis, Bethel; Patricia Dooen, Bethel; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Frances L. Dunn, North Edgecomb; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, Bethel; Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Donald & Edith Eddy, Bethel; Clifford Ellis, Oxford; Sylvia Ellis, Andover; Lucretia B. Evans, Bronx, NY; Thomas & Wendy Ford, Bethel; Allen Fraser, Bethel; Doris Fraser, Bethel; Barbara Freeman, Portland; Gordon & Mary Gillies, Bethel; Roland & Phillipa Glines, Bethel; Cynthia T. Gotjen, Bethel; Lillian H. Grant, Gorham; Robert L. Greenleaf, North Scituate, RI; John T. Grover, Oxford; Agnes Haines, Bethel; Marion Hall, Bethel; Mary Lee Harris, New London, NH; Annie Hastings, Bethel; E. Dick Hastings, Bethel; Robert & Florence Hastings, Bethel; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; Bruce Hazelton, Cumberland Center; John & Fumiko Head, Bethel; Olive Head, West Bethel; Charles Heino, Boothbay; Reona Heino, Boothbay Harbor; Clifford Hillier, Bethel; Dorothea Hitzrot, Bethel; Ernest Holt, Bethel; Richard & Jane Hosterman, West Bethel; Rodney & Geraldine Howe, Bethel; John W. Howe, Vancouver, BC, Canada; Dr. Stanley R. Howe, Bethel; Margaret H. Humphrey, Portland; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel; James Hutchins, Bethel; Norma Jodrey, Bethel; Charlotte Johnson, Westford, MA; Paul & Helen Judkins, Dixfield; Ronald & Eunice Keddy, Plainville, MA; Royden & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Rebecca Kendall, Bethel; Robert & Virginia Keniston, Bethel; Alden & Mabel Kennett, Bethel; Edward & Amy Kennett, Bethel; Dr. Lawrence D. Kimball, Jr., Newburyport, MA; Roberta Kirms, Wallingford, CT; James Konkell, Portland; Harry & Barbara Kuzyk, Bethel; Daisy LeClair, Bethel; E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Martha Long, Kingston, NH; Elizabeth Lord, Bethel; Hugh Lynch, Bethel; Robert B. Marshall, Bethel; Dr. Rex & Martha Martin, Harrison; Fr. Don L. McAllister, Norway; Frederick & Mina McMillin, Bethel; Pearline McMillin, Bethel; Marguerite McNally, Hampden; E. Lee & Mary Mills, Locke Mills; Eva Mills, Bryant Pond; Jeffrey Mills, Bethel; Timothy Mills, Bryant Pond; Marylyn R. Mollicone, Augusta; Nina R. Mollicone, Bethel; James & Josephine Monahan, Bethel; Marcia E. Moss, Concord, MA; George Noll, Bethel; Leslie A. Noyes, Bethel; Margaret H. Oakes, Augusta; Elizabeth B. Overton, Brooklin; Harry & Eleanor Parsons, Bethel; Dr. John & Jane C. Payne, Hanover; Ernest & Lillian Perkins, Bethel; Crawford & Theresa Perry, Bethel; Jeanette S. Potsaid, Hanover, MA; Betty Prescott, Bangor; Anthony & Eleanor Pugliese, Bethel; Edward & Marguerite Quinn, Bethel; Kenneth & Sarah Ramage, Bethel; Richard D. Rasor, Bethel; Edith K. Robertson, Sterling, VA; Roger E. Robertson, Northbridge, CA; Emily Saunders, Bethel; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta; Stephen Seames, Portland; Charles & Edith Seashore, Bethel; Basil Seguin, Bryant Pond; Roy Silver, Bryant Pond; Roxanne T. Sly, Brooklin; Dorothy Small, Biddeford; Charles & Mary Ann Smith, Harrison; Robert & Elizabeth Steadman, Ottawa, Ont., Canada; Joanne P. Stewart, Kalamazoo, MI; George, Jr., & Harriet Stowell, West Bethel; Michael Stowell, Lovettsville, VA; Amy P. Stroud, Pennsauken, NJ; Jane Chapin Sullivan, Portland; G. Dewey & Verna Thayer, Bethel; Irma Thompson, Bethel; William M. Throop, Jr., New Canaan, CT; Hope Tibbetts, Bethel; Dr. John & Margaret Trinward, East Waterford; Richard & Ruth Verville, Westborough, MA; Frank & Janet Vogt, Bethel; Martha Von Zintl, Bethel; Erland & Margaret Wentzell, West Baldwin; Elizabeth

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Eola Marie Swan at the time of her graduation from Gould Academy in 1911. Photo courtesy of Phyllis Davis Dock.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

By Leslie E. Davis

In the fall of 1910, I went back to Gould's Academy for my last year of schooling and worked my board at Mrs. Ellen Chandler's on Spring Street. Marie and her mother lived in a small apartment in Mrs. Chandler's house during that same year.

During this last year at Gould's, I had more opportunity to get into athletics as my duties at Mrs. Chandler's did not keep me too busy, and I played basketball during the winter term and baseball in the spring term. Also, I got more out of my school work than any of the other years.

During the spring term of school in 1911, I had an accident while playing baseball, which resulted in my having one very black eye on graduation day. Near the end of the term, I was playing center field during a game in which the shortstop and I went after the same fly ball, with the result that the back of his head hit me in the eyes and nose. My nose was broken flat down onto my face and my eyes were so black and swollen that for about three days I was not able to open them. So when graduation day came, I got my diploma with the rest, but had to wear a black patch over one eye.

After graduation from Gould's in June 1911, I went home to Hanover to help Father with the farm work. We got our crops in and hoed and finished haying by the latter part of July so I went to Upton to help Bert Judkins with his haying as it was later up there until about September 1. In the meantime, I had asked the Hanover Superintendent of Schools for a job teaching one of the two schools in Hanover and he hired me for the upper district. The schoolhouse was at the top of what was called "Swain's Hill" and has long since burned down. A number of the pupils were there when I attended it five years before, and all were neighbors of mine.

I lived at home and helped Father with the farm work and during the winter when he went into the woods at Richardson Pond hauling pulpwood, I did the chores at home. We had ten or twelve head of cattle, a small flock of sheep and two or three pigs.

I think I had twelve or thirteen pupils scattered through all the grades from beginners to the ninth grade. The school had some older boys who liked to stir up trouble and I had quite a problem to keep order; I had to get rough a few times, but that was the reason I was hired for that school. The Superintendent had not been able to get a woman teacher who was able to keep any discipline. I don't think I taught them much, but I did keep pretty good order. I stayed with that job during the fall and winter term until April of 1912. It paid \$9 per week.

The young men around town organized a local basketball team and we played other town teams around the County that winter and had lots of fun. I also had a driving horse to use that belonged to Uncle Ernest Farrar and I went to a few dances and entertainments with Marie, who was teaching at West Bethel Flat. This was the year also when I began to be lucky hunting. A hunter was allowed two deer in each year, and I got my full number each year for a few years.

I helped Father with the syrup making and at the annual sugar party at Newry Corner on April 12; I did the final boiling down for sugar as Mother was taken sick and Bob was born that night.

After the syrup making, I took a job at Smith Bros. Mill at Hanover, helping to saw dowel squares and I liked that kind of job. Work with machinery appealed to me.

In June 1912, I went to Portsmouth, N.H. to work for Uncle True as an extra hand through the summer. Irving had been there for a year or so and wanted me to come down to try it. On this job I helped him unload cars of fruit, produce and groceries and make deliveries to the local retail stores and make up freight shipments for the towns around Portsmouth. Uncle True paid me \$11 per week for this work. Irving and I roomed together at Uncle Gerald's which cost us \$1 per week apiece and got our meals at Donovan's boarding house at \$4 a week each.

Irving was married in July and he and Mabel started keeping house on Woodbury Avenue, and from then on I roomed alone at Uncle Gerald's and still took my meals at Donovan's.

This job finished up in September as Uncle True's business was considerably less after the summer vacation business at the beaches.

In October there was an opening at the machine shop of Chadwick & Trefethen on Bow Street for an apprentice machinist, which paid \$8 per week to start; I was glad to take it as I was very interested in mechanics although it meant pretty close figuring to live on the pay. It was a good opportunity to learn the trade as they ran a general machine shop and repaired everything from marine engines to wheelbarrows; I also did some plumbing and steamfitting and boiler repairing. In the winter as general work got a little slack, we manufactured an expanding reamer and took in a few automobiles to overhaul as at that time there were no garages nor service stations.

By the summer of 1914, I had been raised in pay to the sum of \$11 per week and Marie had been teaching school since we graduated from Gould's; we decided to get married on October 4th. I had gone back to Bethel to see her whenever I could save enough money and get the time off, which wasn't too often.

During the summer of 1913, I traded my bicycle off for a motorcycle and really had a lot of fun with it although the roads at that time were not hard surfaced except the paving in the cities. I sold the motorcycle in the summer of 1914 and went back to a bicycle as I couldn't support a motorcycle and wife at the same time, and right then a wife seemed to be much more important and desirable.

(to be continued)



The ninth annual "So You Think You Know Bethel" contest was won by the Bethelite team (150-135) of Merton Brown and Cathy Newell (right) in a close race at the January 1988 monthly meeting with the Sudbury team of Robert Keniston and Virginia Kelly. Master of ceremonies was Society Director Stanley R. Howe (center). The popular program features questions that cover the whole spectrum of Bethel's past. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

MECHANIC STREET UPDATE

From Barbara Herrick Brown, Bethel:

Don Brown has reminded me that my father Arthur Herrick ran "a neat ship." Everything was orderly and when one of the workers left a tool around he would say "I guess we don't need that" and throw it out the window.

I recall the first traveling winter vehicle known as the "Snow Boat" was a Ford chassis on wheels. The front wheels were replaced by skis and it traveled in the roads which had been rolled. Later a more sophisticated machine was developed with tractor lags and a covered cab by Ray Crockett and my father. This was used extensively by the doctors and mail carriers in the rural areas. Margaret Tibbetts remembers her father answering calls to East Bethel in his and I recall ski-joring behind Dr. Twaddle's with his son John and others to Gilead when the Doctor was called there. I believe Albert Silver, Bert Gibbs and Roy Cummings had a hand in the construction of these vehicles.

I REMEMBER...

As usual at the time I was sleeping in my "trundle bed" in my parent's room on that night when Father awakened me suddenly and escorted me out to the far end of the shed chamber and tucked me into the old double bed where hired hands sometimes slept—at least where I remember our hired man Orville Kilgore did at times.

I was frightened to be left alone out there, and confused as to the reason for it. Father made some excuse for leaving me which caused me to ask, "Are we going to have company?" He allowed that we probably were, and left me in the dark; I thought I heard him getting out a horse and driving away.

Sometime after I had finally gotten to sleep and it was getting light outside, Father came back and told me I had a little brother; this news surprised and pleased me; it also confused me a little about what had happened in the night to cause all the trouble and commotion.

Uncle Virgil and Aunt Kate were visiting us at the time. Uncle Virgil was a man of nervous temperament and he was rather embarrassed and wholly surprised by this happening; in fact he proclaimed vehemently that he would not have come to visit at that time if he had been told in advance.

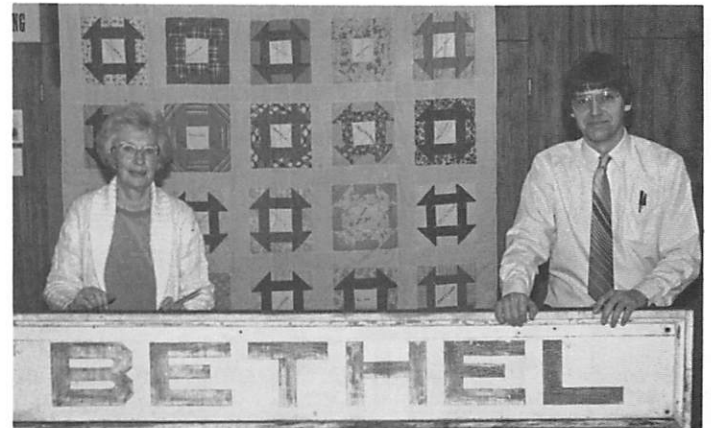
It had evidently been arranged for a woman of mother's acquaintance to come immediately to "keep house a few days for the family"—I think she was there when Father got me up in the morning.

In those days names were often decided on for new-born children several days after birth, so there was for awhile discussion as to what should be the infant's lifelong designation. The "handy-woman" jokingly maintained that he should be "Peter Paul". But the family kept on for some time sorting over masculine names from their memories and managed, after a few days, to settle on "Evans", and the father's given name, "Irving".

So EVANS IRVING WILSON it has been for eighty one years.

Rev. Elwin Wilson, Orono

Editor's Note: Rev. Wilson grew up in Northwest Bethel.



BACK IN BETHEL AGAIN: Bethel Historical Society Registrar and Vice President Jane Hosterman assists Randall H. Bennett, Society Curator of Collections, in holding the sign that once was attached to the railroad station demolished in 1968. This acquisition was made possible through the generosity of several donors: Bessie M. Bennett, Donald G. Bennett, Randall H. Bennett, Kenneth Bohr, Barbara D. Brown, Donald M. Christie, Sr., E. D. Hastings, John B. Head, Richard and Jane Hosterman, Rodney and Geraldine Howe, Arlene D. Lowell, Catherine S-C. Newell, Marvin Ouwinga. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

OUR READERS WRITE

When I was twelve years of age, my family moved from Dummer, NH to Bethel and we lived in the old Barker place, then occupied by Philip Barker and his mother Lydia. The house near the river is now occupied by R. Glenn Murphy and wife.

The covered bridge across the river was divided for two way traffic. In each end was an enclosed kerosene lamp which my brother Harold Marshall (age eight) and I took care of. They had to be kept clean and filled with enough oil to light them all night. They would burn out by daybreak so they were pretty smokey and had to be washed nearly every day.

In addition, we had to pick up the horse manure which accumulated in the bridge. It was in the horse and buggy days so there was usually plenty to clean. We had a little cart along with a broom and shovel for this duty.

For this chore we received \$25 a year. It seemed like a large sum to us at that time. I can't imagine the youth of today doing such a lowly task but we carried on until the old bridge was replaced in 1927.

Erma Marshall Buckley

(Membership, continued from page 5)

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A friendship quilt (shown above) was presented to the Society at the April meeting by Society Life Member Virginia Keniston on behalf of Cross Country Quilters who assembled the squares given the Society in 1982 by Jane Smith Mills of Bryant Pond. The squares were made in 1936 by a group of Bethel ladies (many of them from West Bethel). Names included are those of Ella Grover, Marian Skillings, Frances Bennett, Irene Buzzell, Dorothy Blake, Sylvia Luxton, Florence Blake, Libbie Kneeland, Grace Morrill, Ruby Davis, Sadie Chase, Mildred Heath, Grace Skillings, Joan Coolidge, Florence Hastings, Betty Morrill, Olive Head, Vera McInnis, Phyllis Blanchard, Mary Abbott, Lona Gilbert, Ethel Walsh, Mabel Kirk, Emma Blake, Josephine Kendall, Carla Bennett, Doris Lord, Claire Smith and Helen M. Perkins. Among the quilters who helped with this quilt were (besides Mrs. Keniston) Sue Crane, Carole Crandall, Mary Keniston, Mary Brown, Barbara Yates, Catherine Calef and Dorla Fudge. Admiring the quilt from left to right are Jane Smith Mills, the donor, Virginia Keniston, Ruth Silver, Mary Keniston and Arlene Lowell. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

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(continued on page 8)

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IN MEMORIAM

Died in Springvale, Maine, October 24, 1987, Rachael Bean Perkins, sustaining member since 1981.

Died in Norway, Maine, March 15, 1988, David D. Thompson, life member.

Died in Venice, Florida, May 31, 1988, Marjorie F. Cummings, sustaining member since 1976. Mrs. Cummings's early memories of growing up in Bethel were published in the 1983 Summer, Fall and Winter issues of the COURIER.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

DALE S. BROUSE lives in Frazier Park, CA. ANITA FERRAND, Gilead, has been a sustaining member since 1976. HARLAN and GERTRUDE HUTCHINS, Bethel, are retired. Gertrude is very active as a member of the Garden and Grounds Committee, has served as a guide in the museum, and plays a major role each year in decorating the museum during the Sudbury Canada Days Flower show, Homecoming and the Christmas season. EDWARD and AMY KENNETT, Bethel, live on the Sunday River Road. WILLARD and SYLVIA WIGHT, Newry, are retired. Both have long been very active in the work of the Society and have been generous donors. He is a former Trustee and she is currently a member of the Board of Trustees. (See Trustee profile, page 3.)

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Jane Hosterman

MEMBER PROFILE

Jane Hosterman, Vice President. Mrs. Hosterman was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but spent most of her early years in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. She graduated from Simmons College with a B.S. in Nursing and married Richard Hosterman. The mother of two children, she served in the Boston area as visiting school nurse for thirty years. A longtime vacationer at Richardson Lake, upon retirement she and her husband decided to settle in Bethel ten years ago. Very active in the community, she serves as a trustee of the Bethel Library and the Bethel Area Health Center. She is currently the Lecturer of Pleasant Valley Grange in West Bethel and is a deaconess of the West Bethel Union Church. An avid gardener, she also enjoys travel and genealogical research.

For the past eight years she has been a very enthusiastic volunteer at the Bethel Historical Society, assisting with the Oxford County Historic Resource Survey and serving as Registrar where she accessions and catalogs the incoming collections of the Society. She was elected Society vice president at the 1987 annual meeting.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
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Society Director Stanley R. Howe (left) discusses a pendant from the entrance of the Bethel Covered Bridge with Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Shettleworth made a presentation to the May monthly meeting of the Society on Bethel born architect Thomas Holt (1835-1889) whose plans may have been used in the construction of the bridge across the Androscoggin in 1869. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

BOOK REVIEW

TURMOIL TO TRIUMPH: THE ODYSSEY OF CAPTAIN HARRIS O. MACHUS THROUGH SIX WAR DEVASTATED COUNTRIES IN SEARCH OF SURVIVAL. By Angus Duncan McKellar. (Birmingham, Michigan: Brookside Publications, 1987. Pp. 257. Cloth. \$18.95)

This book provides a remarkable story of incredible hardship and adversity. It begins with the battle of Kasserine Pass (February 1943) in Tunisia during World War II. Captain Harris O. Machus, now a Birmingham, Michigan restaurateur, commanded a company in Lt. Colonel James D. (affectionately known as "Gentleman Jim") Alger's Second Tank Battalion, First Armored Division when German armor streamed out of Faïd Pass and overwhelmed American forces. Col. Alger's battalion was given an impossible order to rescue 2500 American infantrymen now trapped and encircled by superior German forces. The Second Battalion's suicidal attack on 15 February 1943 has been likened to Tennyson's famous lyric, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" at Balaklava in the Crimean War. The book includes a paraphrase of the Tennyson poem with the title "The Attack of the Second Battalion" fashioned by Lt. Gen. Alger, a 1930 graduate of Gould Academy and longtime Bethel area resident, who died in May 1986 before the appearance of this book. Alger also contributed the Foreword to this volume which may be of some interest to local readers since it provides insight into his wartime experiences.

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Seriously wounded in this attack, Captain Machus was captured by the Germans. He somehow managed to recover from his wounds in an Italian makeshift hospital and later escaped by jumping from a train at night. Following this daring escape in the Italian mountains, he survived on handouts from friendly Italians for seven months sheltered from Italy's bitter winter cold by taking refuge in a series of caves and huts. Eventually captured by a German patrol, he was shipped from Italy to a POW camp deep in Poland where he joined Colonel Alger and other survivors of the Second Battalion. When the Russian armies neared the camp in January 1945, the Germans marched the 1200 POWs out in the brutally frigid weather. On the third day of this "long march," Machus risked death again to escape.

He wandered across Poland's frozen plains, sometimes dodging cross-fire between Russian and German patrols. He managed to survive by begging bread from farmers and hiding in barns. Finally reaching the Russian command posts, he sought help from America's wartime ally. None was given or even forthcoming; in fact, he barely escaped being shipped to Siberia. The Russians, moreover, refused to notify Allied embassies that there were American and British servicemen near Warsaw who needed assistance. This attitude did not change until after the Yalta Conference of 1945.

This book based largely on the reminiscences of Captain Machus and others records great bravery, monumental suffering and remarkable endurance. It inspires the reader to appreciate the depth of dedication and singlemindedness of purpose that Machus and his companions so well exemplified. It is a thrilling story with many close calls in staying out of German hands and in surviving the wounds of war and months of hiding in marginal shelters. Anyone interested in a story of great courage and extraordinary patriotism will find this book difficult to put down.

Stanley Russell Howe

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